

~~Christ's Cross~~  
New Kent County, Virginia

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Major Eugene Bradbury, A.I.A., District Officer  
210 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

~~CHRIST'S CROSS~~

New Kent County, Virginia

Owner: P. S. Pomfrey, Tunstall, New Kent County, Virginia.

Date of Erection: About 1690

Architect:

Builder: George Poindexter, according to his descendants.

Number of Stories: The original house had a cellar, a story and a half main part and a two story porch wing. In the existing structure part of the original main portion is a story and a half, part two stories, the porch wing three stories, and a rear extension two stories with cellar.

Present Condition: The structure is in a sad state of delapidation, and the external appearance has been so changed from various causes that a true interpretation of its original state would be difficult. It is evident, however, that the main part was a story and a half with dormers; the porch wing in front being two stories high. The principal roof timbers over the story and a half part, at least, appear to be original. The west end of the main portion remains one story and a half, while the east end has been raised to two story height with frame. The porch wing has also been raised in height with frame to provide a low pitched third story room. At some period a frame wing with brick cellar walls has been extended to the rear, thus completing a cruciform plan. The gable end walls have evidently been changed, the east one replaced with a frame wall and the west one may have been entirely rebuilt with its chimney as the water table is lacking. The east chimney has also been rebuilt. With the exception possibly of the corners where the breaking belt course remains, a large part of the front porch gable has been rebuilt. All of the windows have been replaced with modern ones, although the two in the side walls of the first floor porch room would appear to retain their original size and shape, which may have been that of the others. The later additions and alterations have been made with frame construction, weatherboarded, and the roofs are covered with metal roofing. The framing timbers of the first floor over the cellar are replacements, the framing elsewhere is not known, being inaccessible. No original flooring remains. The joists of the original beamed ceiling in the main part have been lathed and plastered, but those in the first floor porch room

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are exposed and have been whitewashed. The lower part of the great beam extending from one end of the main part to the other is still exposed as is one side of the central supporting post with its impost molding and ornament. The frame of what may have been the original front door still remains, but has been hung with board doors. The inner doors and frame of the porch are the only ones existing complete in their original form, with the exception that a raised molding around each porch has disappeared. The frame of the door next to the central wood post is of similar character to the frame of the inner porch doors, but the door is of a later period, as are all others. A modern stairs has been built from the hall of the addition, cutting into and disfiguring the summer beam. The position of the original stair is not possible to determine, but might be ascertained with access to the floor framing. The plaster is in poor condition and entirely off in places.

**Materials of Construction:** As originally built, the walls of the cellar and first story of the main portion, and the walls of the porch wing two stories high, were built of brick, the gables probably of frame construction. In the present structure, the west gable, the east end wall, the raised portions over the porch wing and the east end of the main portion, and the two stories of the rear extension, are of frame construction, weatherboarded. The cellar walls of the rear extension are brick. The roofs are covered with metal roofing. The original brick are of large size, laid Flemish bond with glazed headers, in lime mortar. The interior, except open-beamed ceilings, was plastered with lime mortar.

**Other Existing Records:** The Poindexter Family is recorded in the Cyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volume IV, as follows:

"The first of the Poindexter family in Virginia was George Poindexter, who, in the Seventeenth century, settled at the Middle Plantation, now Williamsburg. He was a merchant, part owner of ships and a planter. The entire destruction of the records of New Kent and James City Counties and the almost entire destruction of those of Hanover, have precluded of a connected genealogy of the family, but it has been thought that it would be well to gather the various appearances of records relating to the family in several county records and also some data preserved in private hands. Members of the family, prior to the Revolution, had settled in half a dozen different counties in Virginia and the name is now represented by descendants throughout the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"The family, the original form of whose name is Poingdestre, is an ancient genteel line in the Island of Jersey. Fortunately, the pedigree preserved there includes the name of George Poingdestre or Poindexter and states that he settled in Virginia. This pedigree is contained in a work entitled 'An Armorial of Jersey, Being an Account, Heraldic and Antiquarian of its Chief Native Families.'"

A Mr. Poindexter was recorded in the Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish as early as 1684:

"At a vestry held in ye behalf of St. Peter's parish this 20th novem., 1690.

"This vestry being informed by Mr. Ware minister yt Mr. Geo. Poindexter Sen'r doth refuse to offiate as a vestryman ye clarke of this vestry delaring to this vestry yt he did give ye s'd Mr. Poindexter timely noatice of their meeting and Mr. Tho. Smith is elected as a vestryman in his stead and that ye Clark do send me s'd Mr. Smith timely noatice of ye next meeting of this vestry."

Extracts from the Records of York County, Virginia, 1633-1700:

"Deed from Edward Wyatt (1) of the County of Gloucester, gentleman, to George Poindexter, for all of his land at the middle Plantation. Mrs. Jane Wyatt, his wife joins in the deed. Dated January 16th 1667.

"Note (1) In 1655 the Indian King of Chickoyacke deeded certain lands to Mr. Edward Wyatt. Major William Wyatt was a witness. Edward Wyatt, gentleman, patented land in Gloucester in 1662."

Additional Data: In Rev. Arthur P. Gray's letter dated January 9, 1937, is the following statement:

"George Poindexter built Christ's Cross about 1690, so his descendants say. He moved to New Kent from Gloucester County, and was in St. Peter's Parish as early as 1681. He was elected a vestryman in 1690 but refused to officiate."

#### Bibliography:

Cyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volume IV. Lyon G. Tyler, LL.D., Editor. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York. Copyright, 1915.

Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume XIX.  
Virginia Historical Society. William G. Stanard, Editor.  
William Ellis Jones Sons, Inc., Printers. Published 1910.

Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia,  
1682-1758. Photostatic copy of the original manuscript, filed  
in the Archives of the Virginia State Library.

Rev. Arthur P. Gray's letter dated January 9, 1937. Address:  
West Point, Virginia.

Records of York County, Virginia, 1633-1700. Compiled and  
annotated by W. G. Stanard, dated 1887-88. Filed in the  
Archives of the Virginia State Library.

Virginia Thompson  
Historian

Approved: January 15, 1937

Eugene Bradbury  
MAJOR EUGENE BRADBURY, A. C. A.  
DISTRICT OFFICER  
District of Virginia

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